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Liberal and Civic Studies Program

Saint Mary's College of California

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LIBERAL AND CIVIC STUDIES PROGRAM

Students in the Liberal and Civic Studies (L&CS) Program take five L&CS core courses. All other courses required for this program are offered by other academic departments of the College.

The L&CS Program is a broad integrative course of study that seeks the education of the whole person. In addition to traditional academic goals, the program emphasizes cultural awareness, civic and environmental responsibility, self-assessment, ethical values, critical inquiry and active citizenship. The arts, academics and social issues are integrated through service-learning experiences and coursework.

As an interdisciplinary program, L&CS fosters the development of a disciplined mind, one that is aware of the great ideas of the past, examines ideas across disciplines and strives to understand the important issues of our times from multiple perspectives. In support of the Lasallian mission of Saint Mary's College, L&CS also promotes compassionate understanding of others and a sense of community that bridges diverse cultures and transcends national boundaries. The L&CS governing board believes that this program is particularly conducive to the development of well-educated individuals who are uniquely prepared to take on the role of responsible citizenship in a democracy.

The three guiding principles of the L&CS Program are breadth, depth and integration. Breadth is provided through a balance of required and optional courses in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, mathematics, language and kinesiology; depth is provided through a chosen minor/concentration in one of Saint Mary's departmental disciplines; integration is provided through the nine key courses required of all L&CS students: four Collegiate Seminar courses and five L&CS courses (Culture and Civic Responsibility, Environmental Responsibility in a Global Community, Modern Global Issues, Assessment and Portfolio [.25] and Education, Democracy, and Active Citizenship).

To fulfill its mission, the L&CS Program has three different tracks, which are described below.

FACULTY

Linda Saulsby, MA, *Director of L&CS*
 Deepak Sawhney, Ph.D., *Associate Professor*
 Monica Fitzgerald, Ph.D., *Assistant Professor*
 Rashaan Meneses, M.F.A., *Adjunct Assistant Professor*

CIVIC TRACK

This four-year track is for undergraduate students who are interested in a broad and general liberal arts program. The civic track in the Liberal and Civic Studies Program is an excellent choice for students who wish to pursue a creative and rigorous program of interdisciplinary studies as preparation for a future career in law, social work, public service, counseling, communications, business or for future academic work at the graduate level.

EDUCATION TRACK

The education track is a four-year program designed for students who wish to become elementary teachers. The students in this track are provided with knowledge in a variety of disciplines to support their subject matter preparation and completion of the CSET (California Subject Examinations for Teachers). At the end of the four years, students earn a B. A. in Liberal and Civic Studies and continue their preparation for teaching by entering a credential program of their choice.

TEACHERS FORTOMORROW

Incoming freshman students and qualifying sophomores who are committed to becoming elementary teachers, may apply for the Teachers for Tomorrow (TFT) Program. This special program enables students to integrate education coursework and field experiences in elementary schools with their undergraduate course of study. Students proceed through the TFT Program as cohort groups, taking many of their courses and having all of their field experiences with other members of their cohort.

TFT students fulfill most of the same requirements as students of the L&CS Program education track; additional courses in education and field experiences replace some of the elective courses they might normally take. They earn their bachelor's degree at the end of four years and their multiple subject credential at the end of their fifth year. Students may also pursue a Masters of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree in their fifth year at Saint Mary's by fulfilling additional coursework and research components. To be admitted to the program, incoming freshman students must demonstrate a strong academic record in high school, including at least three years of successful study of a single foreign language. Sophomores applying to the TFT Program must also demonstrate a strong academic record in their undergraduate work and the ability to complete program requirements within the normal graduation time frame. Students are encouraged to complete foreign language requirements before admission.

Prospective students must apply separately to the TFT Program by contacting the Liberal and Civic Studies Program to obtain an application.

Curriculum Liberal and Civic Studies Program

GOVERNING BOARD OF THE LIBERAL & CIVIC STUDIES PROGRAM

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Ron Olowin, *Physics & Astronomy*
Linda Saulsby, *Liberal & Civic Studies*
Deepak Sawhney, *Liberal & Civic Studies*
Frances Sweeney, *Modern Languages*

LEARNING OUTCOMES

When they have completed the L&CS Program, students will be able to:

- **INTEGRATE** ideas from various sources, including courses in other disciplines, the arts, service work and life experiences.
- **READ** and understand a variety of challenging texts.
- **ANALYZE** and think critically about learning and personal experiences, and use the results to form a self-assessment.
- **WRITE** in a variety of rhetorical modes using coherent grammatically correct English.
- **SPEAK** intellectually and clearly in small group discussions as well as in front of a group.
- **DEMONSTRATE** the ability to seek, locate, analyze, evaluate and effectively use information from printed, media, Internet and verbal sources.
- **EXHIBIT UNDERSTANDING** of core cultural, political and environmental issues from a national and global viewpoint along with their responsibilities in addressing them.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

L&CS 121 Culture and Civic Responsibility
L&CS 122 Environmental Responsibility
in a Global Community
L&CS 123 Modern Global Issues
L&CS 124 Assessment and Portfolio (.25 credit)
L&CS 130 Democracy and Active Citizenship OR
L&CS 131 Education, Democracy and Active Citizenship

In the depth and breadth requirements listed below, education track students sometimes have specific course requirements, as noted, but may make certain substitutions with the approval of their advisors and the program director. TFT students follow the TFT track requirements.

English: English 4, 5

Religious Studies: TRS 097 and one upper-division course.

January Term: A January Term course is required of all students for each academic year in attendance at Saint Mary's College. During one January Term, students preparing to be elementary teachers are required to take **Field Experience in Education**. *Prerequisite: L&CS 121.* Fine or Performing Arts: One course in the history, theory, philosophy or aesthetics of art, drama, dance or music; one studio production or presentation course (may be for .25 credit or more).

Foreign Language: Students are required to complete sufficient college level courses in a language other than English to achieve demonstrable intermediate-level competency (equivalent to four terms of college level work). Students with native ability in a language other than English may have this requirement waived by demonstrating oral, written and reading skills equivalent to at least intermediate college-level work (four completed terms).

Kinesiology: One full-credit course. Education and TFT track students take **Kinesiology 103: Physical Education in the Elementary School**.

History: Any full-credit course. Students preparing to be elementary teachers take United States history.

Life Science: One course and lab. Students preparing to be elementary teachers take **Biology 50–51: General Biology & Lab**.

Mathematics: Two courses in mathematics or computer science. Students preparing to be elementary teachers take **Mathematics 1 and 101**, or **Mathematics 27 and 101**, or **Mathematics 27 and 28**, or **Mathematics 27 and 38**.

Physical Science: One course and lab.

Psychology: **Psychology 1** and an upper-division psychology class. Education track students take **Psychology 140** or **Education 144**. TFT students are required to take **Education 144**. j

MINOR

Students select a minor from established departmental minors or approved interdisciplinary minors. All L&CS students must complete a minimum of four one-credit upper-division courses in their minor even if the department requires fewer than four. Whenever possible, the minor must include a course with a multicultural or global focus.

Students should plan their minor with the assistance of their faculty advisor.

For more information on the Liberal & Civic Studies Program, please see our website at stmarys-ca.edu/liberal_civic.

PREREQUISITE GRADE

Any course listed in this program with a prerequisite assumes a grade of C– or better in the prerequisite course.

C O U R S E S

121 Culture and Civic Responsibility

This course introduces students to program themes, including diversity (issues of race, class and gender), the environment, democracy, the arts and service learning. Lectures and discussions are complimented by a cultural workshop, a visit to Glide Memorial Church and attendance at art events. Students are required to devote time each week to a service-learning project, write essays, intellectual integrations and a self-assessment. Class sessions are supplemented by a biweekly activity lab. *Prerequisites:* English 4, and level 2 of foreign language. Sophomore standing required.

122 Environmental Responsibility in a Global Community

Taken the semester immediately following L&CS 121 whenever possible, this course focuses on the natural world in which we live, and the complex interrelationship between human activities, the values which determine these activities and their consequences for the environment. Different societies' belief systems along with their responsibility and attitudes toward the environment are examined. Students are required to devote time each week to a service-learning project, write essays, intellectual integrations and a self-assessment. Class sessions are supplemented by a biweekly activity lab. *Prerequisites:* L&CS 121, English 5, Collegiate Seminar 1.

123 Modern Global Issues

The purpose of this course is to gain broad-based exposure to some of the cultural, political and economic issues related to and arising from the processes of globalization. Students will study recent critical dialogues and philosophies of globalization, including issues of ethnicity/race, gender, identity, urban culture, post-nationalism, multiculturalism and postcolonial studies. Students are required to participate in class, lead discussions, write essays and news article responses, give an oral presentation and complete a midterm exam. *Prerequisites:* L&CS 121 or permission of instructor.

124 Assessment and Portfolio (.25)

Students take this course in the semester immediately before L&CS 130/131. The course, which consists of eight sessions, assists students in preparing their portfolios and themselves for their assessment interview which occurs in the latter part of the semester. *Prerequisite:* L&CS 122.

127 Praxis: Community Service (.25)

129 Praxis: REACH Program (.25)

The Praxis courses are a sequence of optional .25-credit courses. Offered every semester, these courses enable students to involve themselves in explorations of the arts, community service or environmental or public policy. In addition to fieldwork (e.g., attending plays or museums, doing community service, working in student government, environmental projects or in a political campaign), students meet to discuss their experiences and produce a culminating paper or project. These courses may be repeated for credit as content varies.

130 Democracy and Active Citizenship

This is the capstone course of the Liberal and Civic Studies Program. It involves a careful examination of the assumptions upon which democracy is based and the work of citizen groups who are addressing America's social problems, from education and government to human services, jobs and the media. The course also examines the possible challenges that the current generation will face in the future. Students complete a research project that is designed to integrate their minors with their service-learning work, and culminates in a formal paper and group presentation to the SMC community. This course has a biweekly activity lab. *Prerequisites:* L&CS 123, L&CS 124 and the senior assessment interview.

131 Education, Democracy and Active Citizenship

This is the capstone course of the L&CS Program for the students in the Teachers for Tomorrow Program. As in L&CS 130, democracy and citizenship are examined with the unique challenges that the current generation will face in the future. This course also focuses on educational issues which are of special concern to the future teacher. *Prerequisites:* L&CS 123, L&CS 124 and the senior assessment interview.

192 Text-Based Discussion in the Middle School Classroom (.25)

This field-based course trains and gives students hands-on experience in facilitating seminar-style, text-based discussion groups for children. After introductory training workshops, students will lead such discussion groups on-site in a middle-school classroom. Students will learn about and practice an educational style that develops critical skills, speaking, reading and thinking in open discussion. This course is required of all Teachers for Tomorrow students and Education track students would benefit from this course. This course must be taken before L&CS 124.